

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Budget Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on Tuesday, October 23, 2001.

Members Present:

Legislator David Bishop - Chairman
Legislator Michael Caracciolo
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Paul Tonna

Also In Attendance:

Paul Sabatino II - Counsel to the Legislature
Jim Spero - Deputy Director of Budget Review
All other interested parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Barrett - Court Stenographer

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(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

All right. Legislator Tonna. Legislator Tonna.

LEG. TONNA:

I'm staying. I'm staying.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

You're sitting in on this, ex officio?

LEG. TONNA:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Paul. Paul, come on. We're trying -- we've got five minutes to get this done.

LEG. TONNA:

I'm here. Call the vote.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Are you voting as ex officio?

LEG. TONNA:

Yes, I'm ex officio.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

I call to order the meeting of the Budget Committee. At the previous Budget Committee Meeting, resolutions were tabled or tabled subject to call. I will go through the resolutions. I will first describe the action that was taken at the previous meeting. First resolution is 1441, which is tabled subject to call.

1441 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and transferring capital funds for Touro Eldercare Program. (ALDEN)

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to approve by Legislator Alden. I do not hear a second. Do you want to make --

LEG. TONNA:

Second. I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

All right. Motion has been made to approve and second by Tonna. All in favor?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Abstention, Legislator Caracciolo. Abstention by myself. Two, zero, two. 1441 fails.

LEG. ALDEN:

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May I ask -- is there a purpose in making sure that failed. It's already been in the budget. That's already been approved by the Legislature, basically, in a prior budgets cycle even. So what is the purpose of defeating that?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

I think it's consistent with what had transpired at the last Budget Committee.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. Let's go on, Mike.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

No, I mean, you know, we're going to be consistent around here or not.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Legislator Alden, my recollection and Counsel's notes and your portrayal are in opposite. In other words --

LEG. ALDEN:

Put it on the record then. What do you think it is? This was not preserved in the last budget cycle?

MR. SABATINO:

This resolution would transfer \$25,000 from Social Security to the Touro Elder Law Clinic Program.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

That suggests that was it was in the budget, which is my understanding of it, which is why I abstained on it.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, that's wrong because, basically, this was in a budget cycle not last budget cycle, the previous budget cycle. And it was -- and it was -- Jim.

MR. BARTON:

Mr. Chairman, we have need to have the Legislators who are participating to use their microphones, and perhaps the other Legislators could turn their's off. The stenographer is having a difficult time recording the meeting.

LEG. ALDEN:

Resolution 1441. Can you tell me the origin of that?

MR. SPERO:

Let me check.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

May we move on?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, no. It's important to -- if we're going to set a tone here --

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

We're not going to abandon it, we're just going to put it aside for a

few minutes. Is that all right.

LEG. ALDEN:

No. On the record, a Legislator said that he's going to do the same thing in this Budget Hearing that he did in a prior Budget Hearing. So if we're going to do something like that, let's get it on the record and then find out.

MR. SABATINO:

Actually, there's a corrected filed May 4th, which makes it \$50,000 and changes the offset to -- it changes the offset from Social Security to advertising. So it's 50,000 from advertizing to \$50,000 for the Eldercare Program.

LEG. ALDEN:

This was preserved in a prior budget cycle.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

That doesn't make it preserved in a prior budget --

LEG. TONNA:

Jim, can you answer this debate, the chicken or the egg. Is it preserved in a prior budget cycle? Is there money in the budget or not?

MR. SPERO:

This was money that was moved to the Capital Fund at the end of last year. Now, Legislator Alden is moving back out of the Capital Fund --

LEG. TONNA:

Right. So it's revenue neutral.

MR. SPERO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Was that vote -- I'll change my -- I'll change my vote to a yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Change my vote to a yes.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

All right. That's APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)

1900 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for the purchase of automobiles for the Probation Department. (BINDER)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

I'll make a motion to table. Is there a second? It was tabled previously. Let's leave it tabled if no one wants to speak up.

1901 Amending the Operating Budget and appropriating funds to create Public Access Defibrillators Coordinator (PAD) position at County Department of Health Services. (CRECCA)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Also was previously tabled. This is supported by the Department of Civil Service.

LEG. ALDEN:

Mr. Chairman, it's also supposedly revenue neutral. Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to approve by Legislator Alden.

LEG. CRECCA:

On the motion, I can speak on it.

MR. SABATINO:

It abolishes one position -- it trades in one position for another.

MR. SPERO:

Yeah. It abolishes and creates a position --

LEG. TONNA:

And that was what I was talking about when I said about padded positions. This is a PAD position, that's what I meant.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

There's no room for wit at this meeting today. What's the motion that's pending? To approve?

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Second by Legislator Caracciolo. All in favor? 1901 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)

1902 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds to the Department of Public Works Transportation Division for additional mass transit operating assistance. (D'ANDRE)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Legislator -- Legislators tabled this last time. Is there a motion? Hearing no motion, this remains tabled.

1903 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds to the Community House of Long Island. (POSTAL)

LEG. TONNA:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion by Legislator Tonna. Seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? 1903 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

1904 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for Row for a Cure. (CARACCIOLO)

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to approve by Caracciolo. Is this an add?

MR. SPERO:

This was money put in this account by Legislator Caracciolo that he now would like to take out --

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to approve by Legislator Caracciolo. Seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion. I missed the explanation you just gave. Where did this money come from?

MR. SPERO:

Legislator Caracciolo had this funding put into the Parks landscaping account. It hasn't all been used, he'd like to move it out for the Row for a Cure.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Omnibus. It's an omnibus adjustment. Motion by Legislator Caracciolo. Seconded by myself? All in favor? Opposed? 1904 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

1905 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget creating and abolishing positions in the Planning Department Division of Real Estate. (HALEY)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

For the record the Civil Service opposes this resolution. They write "The Department of Civil Service does not support this Introductory Resolution. The Land Management Specialist position being created was reviewed by this department and classified as a Land Management Specialist 5, which is the appropriate level of the position. This resolution is circumventing the classification of determination made by the Department of Civil Service". This resolution is offered by Legislator Haley, who is not here to make a case for it. It's tabled, it will remain tabled, right?

1906 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds to various contract agencies. (TOWLE)

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Motion to approve.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Explanation, Legislator Towle.

LEG. TOWLE:

Thank you. This was an appropriation of funds from the Omnibus Resolution of last year. The group doesn't need that, and I

basically, just reappropriated the funds to other organizations.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion by Legislator Caracciolo. Seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor. Opposed? 1906 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

1918 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for Downtown Revitalization Program. (COOPER)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Explanation of 1918.

LEG. TONNA:

Just a question.

MR. SABATINO:

This is to put the downtown monies into the 5-25-5 Fund to save it for a future date.

LEG. TONNA:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

I don't understand.

MR. SABATINO:

This is like last year, you wanted to preserve monies. It would carry over to the next year.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion by Legislator Tonna. Seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? 1918 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

1919 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Burn Center Fund, Inc. (CARPENTER)

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to approve by Legislator Caracciolo. Seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? 1919 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

1932 Transferring contingent funds for various Contract Agencies (Phase III). (PRES. OFFICER)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Explanation, Counsel.

MR. SABATINO:

This is the final stage of the contingency funding for Legislators

to --

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to approve by myself. Seconded by Legislator Tonna. All in

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favor? Opposed? 1932 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

1935 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget and transferring positions to the Suffolk County Office of HMO Services. (FIELDS)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

We have no comment from Department of Civil Service. Explanation.

MR. SABATINO:

This transfers three vacant positions from the current administrative unit of the Office of Aging into the Office of HMO Services, which was created by a resolution that was adopted at the beginning of this year when you overrode a veto. So the office was created, but it has no positions. This would move the three vacant position into that office.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Come on, we're almost done. I need some quiet and corporation. Did you hear that explanation?

LEG. TONNA:

Yes, sure. Paul, do you want to do it again with people paying attention?

MR. SABATINO:

This resolution would transfer three vacant positions from the existing Office of Aging into the Office of HMO Services, which was created when the Legislature overrode the veto of Resolution 1099 earlier this year to create that separate office.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Do they have to hire these people? They're not currently working? These positions are not filled?

MR. SABATINO:

These are three vacant positions.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

All right. So this is probably better done next year for next year's budget, right? You agree? All right.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:

Motion to table by Legislator Alden, I'll blame him. Seconded by Legislator Tonna. All in favor? Opposed? 1935 is TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

Last resolution, 1941.

1941 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds to the Capital Program and Budget for the Environmental and Public Health Review and Risk Assessment of Plum Island. (CARACCIOLO)

LEG. CARACCIOLO:
Motion to approve.

MR. SABATINO:

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This is the \$125,000 that was in the Omnibus from last year for this year awaiting the decision to award the contract for the Plum Island Study. You approved the contract --

CHAIRMAN BISHOP:
Motion by Legislator Caracciolo. Seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? 1941 is APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0).

That concludes the agenda of the Budget Committee. Motion to adjourn by Legislator Alden. Seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? We stand adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:15 P.M.*)

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